

United States Attorney's Office Northern District of Iowa



PRESS RELEASE

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METH AND GUN CHARGES SEND MONONA COUNTY MAN TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR 40 YEARS

United States Attorney Matt M. Dummermuth announced today a drug dealer with a lengthy criminal history who traded stolen guns for methamphetamine used those guns to further his drug business was sentenced to more than 47 years' imprisonment today.

HAROLD "POPSIE" GASHE, 41, of rural Monona County, Iowa, was sentenced for one count of conspiring to distribute methamphetamine, one count of being a domestic abuser in possession of a firearm, and two counts of possessing firearms in furtherance of his drug-trafficking conspiracy.

GASHE had twice been convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence in Iowa and had also been convicted of a drug-trafficking felony in Louisiana. Information provided by the United States at **GASHE'S** sentencing (and his early change of plea hearing) revealed that between about May 2003 and May 2007, **GASHE** and others obtained at least two pounds of ice methamphetamine from Omaha, Nebraska, and resold it from his rented home in Monona, Iowa.

During the conspiracy, **GASHE** accepted stolen firearms in trade for methamphetamine. He later used these firearms in furtherance of his drug-trafficking conspiracy for protection and intimidation.

GASHE was sentenced in Sioux City by United States District Court Judge Mark W. Bennett. **GASHE** was sentenced to 571 months' imprisonment and eight years' of supervised release following prison. **GASHE** was also ordered to pay \$400 in special assessments. There is no parole in the federal system.

GASHE remains in the custody of the United States Marshal.

This case was prosecuted as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a cooperative local, state, and federal program aimed at the enhanced prosecution of gun crimes. The case was investigated by the Onawa Police Department; the Monona County Sheriff's Office; and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Forde Fairchild.